

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D 24 DEC 2001

WIPO PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

12

Applicant's or agent's file reference SSA/P6768WO	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> FOR FURTHER ACTION </div> <div> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) </div> </div>	
International application No. PCT/GB00/03739	International filing date (day/month/year) 29/09/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 01/10/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A63C19/00		
Applicant CAVENDISH, Peregrine, Andrew, Morney et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 		
Date of submission of the demand 01/05/2001	Date of completion of this report 20.12.2001	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465 </div> </div>	Authorized officer Rau, G Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2914	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/03739

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):
Description, pages:

1-36 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-103 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/17-17/17 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/03739

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

- ☐ restricted the claims.
☐ paid additional fees.
☐ paid additional fees under protest.
☐ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

2. ☒ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is

- ☐ complied with.
☒ not complied with for the following reasons:
see separate sheet

4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:

- ☒ all parts.
☐ the parts relating to claims Nos. .

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-92,101,102
	No:	Claims	93-100,103
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-92
	No:	Claims	93-103

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/03739

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims 1-103
 No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

Re Item IV

Lack of unity of invention

The present application does not meet the requirements of Rule 13.1 PCT, because it contains more than one invention. The separate group of inventions are:

- I) Reconfigurable activity surface with means for seamingless joining two sections with inclined edges to the vertical (claims 1-81)
- II) Reconfigurable tray moving apparatus with means for lateral alignment (claim 82-87)
- III) Reconfigurable tray moving apparatus with means for securely locating the tray at the coupling position (claims 88 -92)
- IV) A movable reconfigurable tray for replacing sections of an activity surface (claims 93-103)

Invention I, II, III and invention IV are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (Rule 13.1 PCT) because no technical relationship involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features in the sense of Rule 13.2 PCT does exist between the subject-matter of the four groups of inventions.

The technical feature of having a movable reconfigurable tray for replacing sections of an activity surface, which is common to most of the independent claims, is already known from the prior art (see section V) and does not represent a special technical feature according to Rule 13.2 PCT.

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Document D1=WO92/05690 A, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses an apparatus for closing a fixed gap of an activity surface from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that means are provided for guiding the tray into the gap so as to wedge the tray realisable in the gap and thereby to provide a substantially continuous activity surface.

Since a this technical feature is not contained in any of the available prior art documents, the subject-matter defined in claim 1 is new (Article 33 (2) PCT). Furthermore, said subject-matter is considered to be inventive because none of the cited documents or combination thereof contains any hint that would lead in an obvious way to the combination of features described in independent claim 1 (Article 33 (3) PCT).

2. Independent apparatus claims 77 differs from the subject-matter of document D1 in that a first section of an activity surface with an overlapping edge inclined to the vertical and a second section with complementary edges are provided so that both sections can be joined seamless. In view of the available prior art this technical feature is neither known nor obvious so that claim 77 fulfills the requirements of Articles 33 (2) and (3) PCT.
3. The method claims 50 and 70 with corresponding technical features to apparatus claims 1 and 77 are also new and inventive according to Articles 33 (2) and (3) PCT.
4. Independent apparatus claims 82 differs from the subject-matter of document D1 in that means for moving the tray laterally with respect to the direction of travel on the rails to effect alignment are provided . In view of the available prior art this technical feature is neither known nor obvious so that claim 82 fulfills the requirements of Articles 33 (2) and (3) PCT.
5. Independent apparatus claims 88 differs from the subject-matter of document D1 in that a set of guide rails is provided for moving and securely locating the tray at the coupling position by transferring the weight of the tray from the guide wheels to fixed support means of the tray. In view of the available prior art this technical feature is neither known nor obvious so that claim 88 also fulfills the requirements of Articles 33 (2) and (3) PCT.

6. Document D1 further discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A replaceable section (21) of an activity surface (48), the section being provided on a movable reconfigurable tray and being arranged to disengage the activity surface and be moved away therefrom to be replaced by another section of the activity surface provided on the movable tray (cf. figure 8, page 9, second paragraph).

The subject-matter of claim 93 is therefore not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

7. Document D1 discloses also a movable reconfigurable tray for providing replaceable sections of an activity surface, the movable tray comprising first and second sections compatible with and engageable with the activity surface, the movable tray being arranged to replace the first section by the second section when the first section has become worn (cf. page 8, third paragraph).

The subject-matter of independent claim 103 is therefore also not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).

8. The dependent claims 2-49, 51-69, 71-76, 78-81, 83-87 and 89-92 define further embodiments of the independent claims 1, 50, 70, 77, 82 and 88 which are also new and inventive (Article 33 (2) , (3) PCT).
9. The combination of the features of dependent claims 94-102 is also disclosed in document D1 or would be obvious for a man skilled in the art . Therefore, the claims 94 -102 do not fulfill the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33 (2), (3) PCT).
10. The subject-matter of claims 1-103 is considered to have an industrial application.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/03739

Re It m VII

Certain defects in the international application

1. Independent claims 1, 50, 70, 77, 82, 88, 93 and 103 are not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (document D1) being placed in the preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in the characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
2. The features of the claims 1-103 are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference SSA/P6768W0	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 03739	International filing date (day/month/year) 29/09/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 01/10/1999
Applicant CAVENDISH, Peregrine, Andrew, Morney et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.



as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.

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None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT 00/03739

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A63C19/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A63C A63K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	NL 9 101 557 A (RUDOLPHUS JOHANNES CHRISTIAAN) 16 April 1993 (1993-04-16) the whole document	1,50,70, 77,82, 88,93, 103
A	DE 25 43 176 A (EHLSCHEID KG FRIEDHELM) 7 April 1977 (1977-04-07) the whole document	1,50,70, 77,82, 88,93, 103
A	WO 98 57011 A (MOSER HANS JOACHIM) 17 December 1998 (1998-12-17) the whole document	1,50,70, 77,82, 88,93, 103

-/-



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 January 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/01/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Verelst, P

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT 00/03739

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 298 07 310 U (HIRSCHMANN RAIMUND) 14 January 1999 (1999-01-14) the whole document ---	1,50,70, 77,82, 88,93, 103
A	US 2 650 826 A (JOHN S. ALESSIO) 1 September 1953 (1953-09-01) the whole document ---	1,50,70, 77,82, 88,93, 103
A	US 2 757 930 A (WHITE & HARRIMAN) 7 August 1956 (1956-08-07) the whole document ---	1,50,70, 77,82, 88,93, 103
A	US 4 281 831 A (BIRD JAMES W) 4 August 1981 (1981-08-04) cited in the application the whole document -----	1,50,70, 77,82, 88,93, 103

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT 00/03739

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
NL 9101557	A	16-04-1993	NONE	
DE 2543176	A	07-04-1977	NONE	
WO 9857011	A	17-12-1998	AU 6916898 A DE 29824144 U	30-12-1998 13-07-2000
DE 29807310	U	14-01-1999	NONE	
US 2650826	A	01-09-1953	NONE	
US 2757930	A	07-08-1956	NONE	
US 4281831	A	04-08-1981	NONE	

PRELIMINARY SEARCH REPORT

Application number

FA 595033
FR 0012418

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim
A	NL 9 101 557 A (RUDOLPHUS JOHANNES CHRISTIAAN) 16 avril 1993 (1993-04-16) * le document en entier *	1,50,70,77
A	DE 25 43 176 A (EHLSCHEID KG FRIEDHELM) 7 avril 1977 (1977-04-07) * le document en entier *	1,50,70,77
A	WO 98 57011 A (MOSER HANS JOACHIM) 17 décembre 1998 (1998-12-17) * le document en entier *	1,50,70,77
A	DE 298 07 310 U (HIRSCHMANN RAIMUND) 14 janvier 1999 (1999-01-14) * le document en entier *	1,50,70,77
A	US 2 650 826 A (JOHN S. ALESSIO) 1 septembre 1953 (1953-09-01) * le document en entier *	1,50,70,77
A	US 2 757 930 A (WHITE & HARRIMAN) 7 août 1956 (1956-08-07) * le document en entier *	1,50,70,77
D,A	US 4 281 831 A (BIRD JAMES W) 4 août 1981 (1981-08-04) * le document en entier *	1,50,70,77
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl. 6) A63C A63K
Date of completion of the search 4 janvier 2002		Examiner Verelst, P
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		

ANNEX FR 0012418 FA 595033

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited 04-01-2002

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
NL 9101557	A	16-04-1993	AUCUN	
DE 2543176	A	07-04-1977	DE 2543176 A1	07-04-1977
WO 9857011	A	17-12-1998	AU 6916898 A	30-12-1998
			WO 9857011 A1	17-12-1998
			DE 29824144 U1	13-07-2000
			TW 415991 B	21-12-2000
DE 29807310	U	14-01-1999	DE 29807310 U1	14-01-1999
US 2650826	A	01-09-1953	AUCUN	
US 2757930	A	07-08-1956	AUCUN	
US 4281831	A	04-08-1981	AUCUN	



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0023936.8
Claims searched: 1 and 22, at least

Examiner: Roland Whaite
Date of search: 8 December 2000

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): A6D (D39X)

Int Cl (Ed.7): E01C 13/08

Other: ONLINE: EPODOC JAPIO WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2290239A LUTON TOWN FOOTBALL AND ATHLETIC COMPANY LIMITED (see especially Fig 6)	1 and 22
X	WO 92/05690A THE GREENWAY SERVICES, Inc (see especially Figs 3, 4, 6 and 8)	1 and 22

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



Application No: GB 0023935.0
Claims searched: 1, at least

Examiner: Roland Whaite
Date of search: 12 December 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): A6D (D39X)

Int Cl (Ed.7): E01C (13/00, 13/08)

Other: ONLINE: EPODOC JAPIO WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	WO 92/05690A THE GREENWAY SERVICE, Inc (see especially page 9, lines 15 and 16)	1

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0023934.3
Claims searched: 1 and 50, at least

Examiner: Roland Whaite
Date of search: 8 December 2000

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK Cl (Ed.R): A6D (D39X); E1G (G53E, G53X)
Int Cl (Ed.7): A63C 19/00; A63K 1/00; E01C (9/08, 13/00, 13/04, 13/08)
Other: ONLINE: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
A	GB 319472 TETLOW (see especially receptacles, reference R1 in Fig 2, and description page 2, lines 4 to 83)	
A	US 4281831 BIRD (whole document relevant)	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0023937.6
Claims searched: 1, at least

Examiner: Roland Whaite
Date of search: 12 December 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK CI (Ed.R): A6D (D39X)
Int CI (Ed.7): E01C (13/00, 13/08)
Other: ONLINE: EPODOC JAPIO WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
Y	WO 92/05690A THE GREENWAY SERVICES Inc (see especially page 9, lines 15 and 16)	1, 8
Y	GB 1546903 Fried. KRUPP Gmbh (see especially page 2, lines 23 to 28)	1, 8

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 0023932.7
Claims searched: 1, 8 and 9, at least

Examiner: Roland Whaite
Date of search: 11 December 2000

Patents Act 1977 Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK CI (Ed.R): A6D (D39X)

Int CI (Ed.7): E01C (13/00, 13/08)

Other: ONLINE: EPODOC JAPIO WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
X	GB 2109843A SELFLEVEL COVERS (see especially seating of cover 14 onto frame 10, Figure 2, by means of complementary faces 19,20, 23, 24)	8, 9
X	GB 1468835 STONER & SAUNDERS (see especially page 1, lines 55 to 62, and seating of cover 10 in frame 20, Figure 2, by means of complementary faces 13, 22)	8, 9

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
12 April 2001 (12.04.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/24894 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A63C 19/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/03739

(22) International Filing Date:
29 September 2000 (29.09.2000)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
9923325.6 1 October 1999 (01.10.1999) GB
9923520.2 5 October 1999 (05.10.1999) GB

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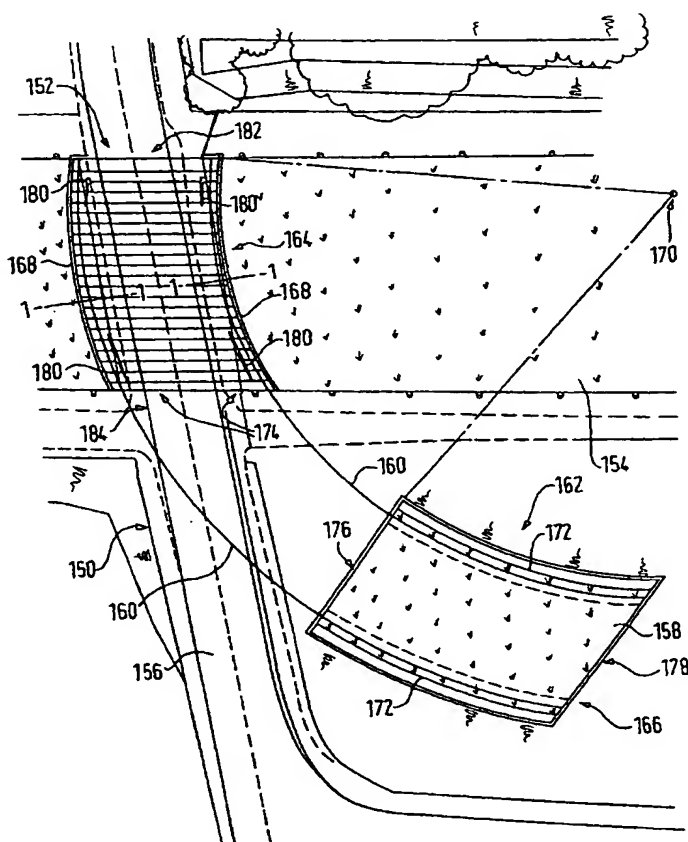
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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU,
AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO ACTIVITY SURFACES



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for an a method of closing a fixed gap in an activity surface such as a turfed race-track is described. The apparatus comprises a movable turf tray having an upper surface with the same characteristics as the activity surface and means for guiding the tray into the gap so as to wedge the tray releasably in the gap and thereby to provide a substantially continuous activity surface. The apparatus can be used to provide a reconfigurable racetrack crossing with the permanent road gap in the racetrack being closeable by means of the movable turf tray. Overlapping edges of the turf tray provide a weight wedging action which provides reliable pressure joins. This also has application for creating reconfigurable turfed activity surfaces such as are used in sports stadia and the like.

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